# Comma Clue Hunt

What does each comma separate?

**5.LF.40.a** "Use commas to separate items in a series, separate introductory elements from the rest of a sentence, set off tag questions, and indicate direct address."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### OPENING ELEMENT

A phrase or clause at the start of a sentence can tell when, where, or under what condition something happens. A comma separates it from the main part of the sentence.

By noon, we had sketched butterflies.

### DIRECT ADDRESS

A name can tell whom the speaker is talking to. One or two commas set that name apart.

Nina, bring your notebook.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle OPENING or ADDRESS for each sentence; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how its comma helped you decide.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | During recess, Maya played hopscotch. | OPENING ADDRESS |
| **2.** | If the rain stops, our team will practice. | OPENING ADDRESS |
| **3.** | Eli, please pass the glue. | OPENING ADDRESS |
| **4.** | At the museum, I saw ancient coins. | OPENING ADDRESS |
| **5.** | Can you help me, Priya? | OPENING ADDRESS |
| **6.** | This puzzle, Jonah, is tricky. | OPENING ADDRESS |
| **7.** | When the bell rang, everyone lined up. | OPENING ADDRESS |
| **8.** | Before dinner, Dad watered the plants. | OPENING ADDRESS |

## 2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how its comma helped you decide.

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

## 3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new sentence with an opening element and one new sentence with direct address. Use commas correctly.

**OPENING** _____

**ADDRESS** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write one sentence that uses both an opening element and direct address, then explain what each comma does.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Comma Clue Hunt

**GRADE 5 · 5.LF.40.a**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | During recess, Maya played hopscotch. | **OPENING** | The comma separates the opening time phrase from the rest of the sentence. |
| 2 | If the rain stops, our team will practice. | **OPENING** | The comma follows the opening condition. |
| 3 | Eli, please pass the glue. | **ADDRESS** | The comma sets apart the name of the person being spoken to. |
| 4 | At the museum, I saw ancient coins. | **OPENING** | The comma separates the opening place phrase from the rest of the sentence. |
| 5 | Can you help me, Priya? | **ADDRESS** | The comma sets apart the name of the person being spoken to. |
| 6 | This puzzle, Jonah, is tricky. | **ADDRESS** | Two commas set apart the name of the person being spoken to. |
| 7 | When the bell rang, everyone lined up. | **OPENING** | The comma follows the opening time clause. |
| 8 | Before dinner, Dad watered the plants. | **OPENING** | The comma separates the opening time phrase from the rest of the sentence. |

## PART 2 · PROVE IT

**Task:** Choose one item from each category and explain how its comma helped you decide.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

## PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **OPENING**: Under the bridge, a turtle rested.
- **ADDRESS**: Mara, will you hold my place?

**Challenge:** At sunset, Leo, please lock the shed. The first comma ends the opening element; the second sets the name apart from the request.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the opening phrase or clause in an OPENING item and the person being spoken to in an ADDRESS item. In item 6, both commas set apart Jonah.